

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

*Mass.: Department of civil service and  
registration Division of registration*  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

STATE EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICIANS

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1928



PUBLICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION ON ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASS. OFFICIAL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE EXAMINERS  
OF ELECTRICIANS.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

In accordance with section 2, chapter 141, and section 32, chapter 30, of the General Laws, the State Examiners of Electricians submit herewith their annual report for the year ending November 30, 1928.

From the first day of December, 1927, to the thirtieth day of November, 1928, applicants were examined, and were passed or rejected, as is shown in the following table:

Result of Examinations held from December 1, 1927, to November 30, 1928.

EXAMINATIONS	Examined	Passed	Failed
<b>1927.</b>			
New Bedford, December 6	33	6	27
Worcester, December 8	32	7	25
<b>1928.</b>			
Boston, January 4	99	28	71
Boston, January 5			
Boston, February 6	89	19	70
Lowell, February 9	25	2	23
Boston, March 5	81	7	74
Springfield, March 8	30	4	26
Boston, April 2	108	26	82
Fall River, April 5	30	5	25
Fall River, April 6			
Boston, May 7	142	22	120
Worcester, May 10	49	14	35
Boston, July 6	193	32	161
Boston, July 9			
Boston, September 10	91	10	81
Lowell, September 14	23	2	21
Springfield, October 5	46	8	38
Pittsfield, October 6	14	2	12
Boston, November 5	99	14	85
Worcester, November 9	36	6	30
Total for fiscal year	1,220	214	1,006

621.3M3  
879m  
1928  
A  
EXAMINATIONS, 1929.

Examinations will be held at following points and on following dates:

Boston . . . . .	Monday, Jan. 7	Boston . . . . .	Monday, June 24		
Boston . . . . .	Friday, Jan. 11	Boston . . . . .	Tuesday, June 25		
Boston . . . . .	Monday, Feb. 4	Boston . . . . .	Monday, Sept. 23		
Lowell . . . . .	Thursday, Feb. 7	Lowell . . . . .	Thursday, Sept. 26		
Boston . . . . .	Monday, Mar. 4	Springfield . . . . .	Friday, Oct. 4		
Springfield . . . . .	Wednesday, Mar. 6	Pittsfield . . . . .	Saturday, Oct. 5		
Boston . . . . .	Monday, Apr. 1	Boston . . . . .	Monday, Nov. 4		
Fall River . . . . .	Thursday, Apr. 4	Worcester . . . . .	Thursday, Nov. 7		
Fall River . . . . .	Friday, Apr. 5	Boston . . . . .	Monday, Dec. 2		
Boston . . . . .	Monday, May 13	New Bedford . . . . .	Thursday, Dec. 5		
Worcester . . . . .	Thursday, May 16	New Bedford . . . . .	Friday, Dec. 6		
Certificates issued during fiscal years		1925	1926	1927	1928
Masters (Class A) . . . . .		154	182	117	85
Journeymen (Class B) . . . . .		458	474	272	153
Certificates renewed during fiscal years . . . . .		1925	1926	1927	1928
Masters (Class A) . . . . .		823	954	1,001	1,056
Journeymen (Class B) . . . . .		9,244	9,577	9,581	9,545
Certified Statements of Registration issued during fiscal years		1925	1926	1927	1928
Journeymen (Class B) . . . . .		59	77	54	53
Duplicate Certificates (Class A) . . . . .		1	1	1	

RECEIPTS.

The following table shows the receipts of the State Examiners of Electricians for the fiscal years 1925, 1926, 1927, and for the fiscal year commencing December 1, 1927, and ending November 30, 1928:

<i>Masters.</i>	1925	1926	1927	1928
Application fees . . . . .	\$4,390 00	\$4,795 00	\$3,420 00	\$2,895 00
Renewal fees . . . . .	12,345 00	14,295 00	15,015 00	15,810 00
Duplicate certificates . . . . .	5 00	5 00	5 00	5 00
Total fees from Masters . . . . .	\$16,740 00	\$19,095 00	\$18,440 00	\$18,710 00
<i>Journeymen.</i>				
Application fees . . . . .	\$3,455 00	\$3,675 00	\$3,003 00	\$2,611 00
Renewal fees . . . . .	9,244 00	9,578 00	9,581 00	9,546 00
Certified statements . . . . .	59 00	77 00	54 00	41 00
Total fees from Journeymen . . . . .	\$12,758 00	\$13,330 00	\$12,638 00	\$12,198 00
Miscellaneous fees . . . . .	\$117 00	\$25 00	\$62 00	\$80 00
Interest . . . . .	1 15			
Fees subject to refund . . . . .	641 00	406 00	438 00	446 00
Total paid to Treasurer of Commonwealth . . . . .	\$30,257 15	\$32,856 00	\$31,578 00	\$31,434 00



## EXPENDITURES.

Salaries . . . . .	\$6,930 00
Additional clerical, stenographic and examination assistance . . . . .	676 83
Printing . . . . .	578 04
Office supplies, etc. . . . .	969 32
Postage . . . . .	565 23
Expenses in connection with examinations . . . . .	291 45
Travel . . . . .	1,499 97
Total . . . . .	<hr/> \$11,510 84

## ENFORCEMENT.

During the past year the Examiners of Electricians have given a great deal of attention to the enforcement of chapter 141 of the General Laws, which act provides for the licensing and supervision of electricians. Due to lack of enforcement in the past it has been apparent that a general disregard of the law has existed, which has resulted in faulty electrical work and potential fire hazard.

In January, 1928, the Examiners met and decided to do all in their power to adequately carry out the provisions of the act. Legislation was introduced to correct certain inadequate features of the law, which legislation, however, failed of enactment.

In spite, however, of existing legal handicaps, the Examiners feel that they have made a great deal of progress. They have made the examinations more thorough and more adequate and they have brought about better conditions through revocation of the licenses of persons who have proven themselves unfit or who have deliberately violated the law or the rules of the Examiners. This has been accomplished through the cooperation of the local wire inspectors and the agents of the examiners.

## HEARINGS.

During the past fiscal year the Examiners have granted hearings to thirty-one persons, as a result of which sixteen licenses were revoked, seven were suspended, and in five cases the licensees were either reprimanded or no action was taken. For the purpose of comparison, during the year 1927 fourteen hearings were held, as a result of which five licenses were revoked, six licenses were suspended and in three cases the licensee was reprimanded.

In addition to these, twenty-three cases were prosecuted in the courts of the commonwealth, in which twenty-one were found guilty and fined \$245 in the aggregate. Previous to the year 1928 practically no action had ever been taken in the courts.

During the fiscal year of 1928 the total of some 150 cases was investigated.

The reaction to this policy has been most favorable, and without question has resulted in a higher and safer standard of electrical work.

The action of the Examiners in the preceding cases was based on the following charges:

Installing electrical work without being properly licensed.

Installing defective electrical work.

Repeated victimizing of clients and failure to properly complete work for which payment had been made.

Of these cases, one involved the electrical work in a new high school, which would probably have resulted in a serious fire, had action not been taken in time.

Another involved a case in which a small fire actually started, and still others corrected or prevented the repetition of conditions which, if allowed to continue, would have resulted in serious danger to life and property.

## RECOMMENDATIONS.

---

The law providing for the licensing of electricians has now been in existence, without any substantial change, since 1915. Investigation and analysis of complaints received by the Examiners over a period of several years make it apparent that numerous changes are necessary in order to remedy certain defects and omissions in the law which have placed a severe handicap on the proper enforcement thereof.

The Examiners believe that a clearer definition should be made of the work which may be done by certain classes of licensees, and that a readjustment of fees should be made in the case of master and journeymen electricians. The present law, through a technicality, permits unlicensed and unqualified persons to do work on their own premises or on the premises of another, provided it is not done for hire, and this should be changed.

At present the Examiners have no power to summons or place witnesses under oath. This places the Examiners under a great handicap, since it is difficult under such conditions to get the testimony of unprejudiced witnesses.

The Examiners recommend, therefore, a general revision of chapter 141 of the General Laws, in order to bring it into conformity with present-day practice, and in order that the results may be secured which were intended by the original legislation, and present below a proposed revision of the law which they believe from careful study will accomplish the desired results.

The text which follows contains both the original and the proposed laws. Parts of the old law which have been taken out are enclosed by brackets, and new matter which has been inserted is in italics.



PROPOSED REVISION OF CHAPTER 141, GENERAL LAWS. — SUPERVISION OF ELECTRICIANS.

SECTION 1. No person, firm or corporation shall [enter into, engage in, or work at the business of installing] *install* wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances for carrying or using electricity for light, heat or power purposes, either as a master electrician or as a journeyman electrician, unless such person, firm or corporation shall have received a license and a certificate therefor, issued by the state examiners of electricians and in accordance with the provisions hereinafter set forth.

The words "master electrician" as used in this chapter shall mean a corporation, firm, or person [, having a regular place of business, who, by the employment of journeymen, performs the work] *except a journeyman electrician as hereinafter defined, who engages in the business of installing wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures [and] or other appliances for carrying or using electricity for light, heat or power purposes.*

The words "journeyman electrician" as used in this chapter shall mean a person [doing any work] *who performs the actual work of installing wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures [and] or other appliances [for hire.] for carrying or using electricity for light, heat or power purposes.*

*Nothing in this chapter shall be so construed as to forbid the installation, attachment to or insertion in electrical circuits by unlicensed persons, of wires, devices or appliances which are properly designed for such installation, attachment or insertion, and for which proper wires and attachment devices are provided, and which wires, devices or appliances, so installed or inserted, are not permanently attached or fastened to the structure or finish of the building.*

SECTION 2. The state examiners of electricians, in this chapter called the examiners, may make *and enforce* necessary rules, *requirements and regulations* for the proper performance of their duties[.] *and for the proper carrying out and enforcement of this chapter.*

They shall hold frequent examinations in Boston, and, twice in each year, shall hold examinations in at least [five] *four* other convenient places within the commonwealth, and they may hold annual or occasional examinations in other places. Public notice shall be given of all examinations.

They shall make an annual report of their doings.

In the conduct of the examinations they shall make uniform requirements for all towns, which may be revised from time to time, as circumstances require. Said examinations shall be sufficiently frequent to give ample opportunity for all applicants to be thoroughly and carefully examined, may be written or in practical work, *or both*, and may be supervised by one or more of the examiners, but no license shall be granted without the sanction of the examiners.

SECTION 3. Two forms of licenses shall be issued. The first, hereinafter referred to as "Certificate A", shall be known as "master

electrician's license", and the second, hereinafter referred to as "Certificate B", shall be known as "journeyman electrician's license".

(1) "Certificate A" shall be issued to any person, firm or corporation engaged in or about to engage in the business of installing electrical wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures [and other electrical appliances, qualified under this chapter.] *or other appliances for carrying or using electricity for light, heat or power purposes, and who, after examination, shall be found qualified by the examiners.* The certificate shall specify the name of the person, firm or corporation so applying, and also, in case of a firm or corporation, shall specify the name of the person, who in the case of a firm shall be one of its members, and in the case of a corporation[,] shall be one of its officers, passing said examination in its behalf. [, by which he or it shall be authorized to enter upon or engage in business as set forth therein.] The holding of a "Certificate A" [shall not entitle the holder individually to engage in or perform the actual work of installing electric wires, conduits and appliances as previously described in this chapter,] *shall entitle such person, firm or corporation to engage in business as set forth therein, but shall not entitle the holder individually to engage in or perform the actual work of installing electric wires, conduits or appliances as previously described in this chapter, but shall entitle him to conduct business as a master electrician[.] subject to the rules, requirements and regulations of the examiners. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit the actual work of installing electric wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances by an individual holder of a "Certificate A" who also holds a "Certificate B".* The person, member of a firm or officer of a corporation as a result of whose examination a "Certificate A" is granted to such person, firm or corporation shall direct or supervise the electrical work done by employees of such person, firm or corporation.

(2) "Certificate B" shall be granted to any person [who has passed an examination before the state examiners of electricians.] *who, after examination before the examiners, is found qualified by them.* It shall specify the name of such person, who shall thereby be authorized [to engage in the occupation of a journeyman electrician.] *to work as a journeyman electrician, subject to this chapter and to the rules, requirements and regulations of the examiners.*

Except as otherwise provided in section eight, a holder of a "Certificate B" shall not be entitled to engage in the business of installing wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances for carrying or using electricity for light, heat or power purposes except as an employee of a holder of a "Certificate A", or unless said holder of a "Certificate B" is also registered as a master electrician and holds a "Certificate A".

(3) Persons desiring an examination shall make written application therefor, accompanied by the proper fee, which in every instance shall be [twenty-five] *ten* dollars for "Certificate A" and five dollars for "Certificate B". An applicant failing in his examination shall not have his fee returned to him. [, but shall be entitled to one free re-ex-



amination. For each subsequent re-examination for "Certificate A" he shall pay fifteen dollars and for "Certificate B" one dollar.]

(4) Each "Certificate A" shall expire on July thirty-first in each year, but may, *at the discretion of the examiners*, be renewed by the same person, or the same firm or corporation, acting by one or more of its members or officers, without further examination, upon payment of a fee of [fifteen] *ten* dollars, application therefor being made during the preceding month.

(5) Each "Certificate B" shall expire on July thirty-first in each year, but may, *at the discretion of the examiners*, be renewed upon payment of a fee of [one dollar] *two* dollars, and upon the same conditions set forth in the preceding paragraph.

(6) *Every holder* [Holders] of a "Certificate A" shall keep [their] *his or its* certificate of registration displayed in a conspicuous place in [their] *his or its* principal [offices] *office* or [places] *place* of business. *Every holder* [Holders] of a "Certificate B" shall be furnished by the examiners with evidence of having been so licensed, in card form or otherwise, which shall be carried on the person of the licensee and exhibited on request.

(7) Any certificate expiring while the holder thereof is in the military or naval service of the United States shall be renewed without further examination, upon payment of the prescribed fee, at any time within four months after such person's discharge from the service.

(8) Examination papers and applications for "Certificate A" and "Certificate B" shall be preserved for at least three years, after which time they may, at the discretion of the examiners, be destroyed.

(9) Records of the meetings of the examiners shall be open for inspection at all times, and they shall have printed annually a manual of their *rules, regulations and requirements*, including the names of all licensees.

(10) *Applications for examination shall be made under oath or verified by a written declaration that they are made under the penalties of perjury.*

SECTION 4. No certificate issued under this chapter shall be assignable or transferable. [They] *Any such certificate* may, after hearing, be suspended or revoked by the examiners upon failure or refusal of the licensee to comply with the *rules, regulations and requirements* of the examiners, or for other sufficient cause. *For the purpose of carrying out this section, the examiners, any member thereof, or any employee so authorized by them, may compel the attendance of the licensee against whom action is taken under this section; may also by subpœna duces tecum compel the attendance of witnesses with such papers, memoranda, books and records as may relate to the charges against such licensee, and for the purpose of carrying out this section may administer oaths. The examiners may also cause depositions to be taken. The fee for attending as a witness at any such hearing before the examiners shall be two dollars a day and five cents a mile for travel to and from the point*



*designated by the examiners for the hearing. Any justice of the supreme judicial or the superior court may, on petition of the examiners, enforce by proper proceedings the provisions of this section relating to the attendance of licensees, witnesses and to the examination of papers, memoranda, books and records.*

SECTION 5. Any person, firm or corporation, or employee thereof, and any representative, member or officer of such firm or corporation individually, entering upon or engaging in the business and work hereinbefore defined, without having complied with this chapter and with the rules, requirements and regulations of the examiners, or falsely representing himself or his firm or corporation as a master or employing electrician by the use of the words "master electrician" or "electrical contractor" or words of similar import or meaning on signs, cards, stationery, or in any other manner whatsoever, shall for the first offence be punished by a fine of not less than ten nor more than one hundred dollars, and for a subsequent offence by a fine of not less than fifty nor more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the house of correction for six months, or both.

SECTION 6. No person, firm or corporation holding a "Certificate A" shall be liable for work done by his or its employees, unless it appears that such work was done with his or its knowledge or consent or by his or its authorization.

SECTION 7. This chapter shall not apply to the installation, repairing and wiring of elevators or to work in connection with the erection, construction, maintenance or repair of lines for transmission of electricity from the source of supply to the service switch on the premises where used by municipal electric plants, by electric companies as defined in section one of chapter one hundred and sixty-four, by gas companies authorized to make or sell electricity, by electric street railway companies, by electric railroad companies or by railroad companies; nor to the work of such plants or companies on premises owned or controlled by them; nor to the work of said municipal electric plants or of said electric or gas companies in installing, maintaining and repairing, on the premises of customers, service connections and meters and other apparatus and appliances remaining the property of such plants or companies after installation; nor to work in connection with the lighting of public ways, alleys, private ways or private or public parks, areas or squares; nor to the work of companies incorporated for the transmission of intelligence by electricity in installing, maintaining or repairing wires, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances used by such companies and necessary for or incident to their business, whether or not such wires, conduits, apparatus, fixtures or other appliances are on its own premises.

SECTION 8. This chapter shall not forbid the employment of learners or apprentices working with and under the direct personal supervision of licensed journeymen electricians.

Electricians employed by theatrical companies may install temporary wiring and appliances required for the purpose of the engagement of any such company, subject to the supervision of a person licensed under this chapter.

Electricians *may* be regularly employed by *persons*, firms or corporations other than holders of "Certificate A" [may install such electrical wiring, conduits and appliances or make such repairs] *for the purpose of making such alterations, additions or repairs to existing electrical installations* as may be required only on the premises and property of such *persons*, firms or corporations; provided, that such electricians hold journeymen's licenses, [and have complied with this chapter.] *that such alterations, additions or repairs do not materially change the character and load of the existing installation, and that such electricians have complied with this chapter and with the rules, requirements and regulations of the examiners.*

SECTION 9. Any person, *firm or corporation* applying for a *license under this chapter* [journeyman's license] and making any misstatement as to his *or its* experience or other qualifications, or any person, firm or corporation subscribing to or vouching for any such misstatement, shall be subject to the penalties set forth in section five.

SECTION 10. Fees and fines collected under this chapter shall be paid to the commonwealth.

Respectfully submitted,

STATE EXAMINERS OF ELECTRICIANS,

ELLIOT H. GOODWIN, *Chairman,*  
*Commissioner of Civil Service.*

GEO. C. NEAL,  
*State Fire Marshal.*

JANUARY 24, 1929.

ALBERT L. EDSON,  
*Executive Secretary.*  
Room 180, State House, Boston, Mass.





